Delay in Notification of rights to Information Act

2313. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 457 given in Rajya Sabha on 14th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Right to Information Act has yet not been implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Apex Court has issued notice to the Centre and the States on the delay in notification of the Act; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) With a view to make the legislation on the 'Right to Information' more progressive, participatory and meaningful, Government has initiated action for a more comprehensive 'Freedom/Right to Information Act'.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Cadre review for Central Secretariat Services

2314. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since completed cadre review for Central Secretariat Services, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this has actually shortened the time period for promotion of officers to grades of Section Officer, Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Director who had been stagnating hithertofore;

(c) the comparative position before and after the cadre review and future projections;

(d) whether the process of filling up the vacancies that have arisen through cadre review is rather slow and causing hardship to the already stagnating officers; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) After careful consideration of various recommendations made by the Committee on Cadre Restructuring of Central Secretariat Service (CSS), Government has taken several decisions on the Cadre Restructuring of CSS in October, 2003. Highlights of the decisions are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) Various decisions taken by the Government on Cadre Restructuring of CSS have enhanced the promotional avenues for the CSS personnel to a large extent.

(c) The comparative position/future projections will vary, depending upon the position of an individual in a particular Select List year as also the period under comparison and availability of posts during that Select List year.

(d) and (e) *Ad-hoc* promotions have been made in same grades of CSS to address the element of stagnation and the same have given relief to the CSS personnel.

Statement

Highlights of the decisions taken by the Government on cadre restructuring of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS)

(i) Creation of a new Senior Selection Grade (Rs.14300-18300) to be designated as Director, and fixing the cadre strength of Directors in the CSS at 110.

(ii) Fixing the cadre strength of Deputy Secretaries and Under Secretaries in the CSS at 330 and 1400 respectively.

(iii) Consequent amendment of the Central Staffing Schemes Rules such that posts of Director, Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary are no longer available to the CSS officers under the Central Staffing Scheme;

(iv) Modification of the Central Staffing Scheme to change the eligibility criteria for the CSS officers for the posts of Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary, to bring these in line with the eligibility conditions for other services;

(v) Fixing the Cadre strength of Section Officers (SOS) in the CSS at 3000.

(vi) To provide non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500/- to the SOs, prospectively;

(vii) To discontinue the Direct recruitment to the post of SO;

(viii) To change the mode of recruitment for the post of SO by way of 50% through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCs) and 50 per cent by seniority;

(ix) To discontinue the Scheme of *in situ* upgradation of posts in the CSS;

(x) To change the mode of recruitment for the post of Assistant by way of 75% through direct recruitment of graduates possessing computer proficiency, 15% by promotion of UDCs and 10% through LDCs for UDCs. As a one time exception, resultant vacancies of Assistants arising from the c adre restructing of CSS will be filled up from UDCs by way of 50% through LDCs and 50% by seniority;

(xi) To provide inter-cadre transferability at the level of SO and Assistant;

(xii) To centralize the cadre management including postings of the CSS personnel in the CS Division of DOPT

(xiii) To discontinue direct recruitment to the post of LDC;

(xiv) To abolish vacant posts of LDC which are filled up through direct recruitment;

(xv) To change mode of recruitment for the post of LDC by way of 70% by promotion of Group 'D' staff and 30% through LDCs;

(xvi) TO defer, for the present, a decision regarding the lateral entry of CSSS officers;

(xvii) To undertake the cadre review of CSS after three years to remove distortions, if any, due to downsizing of the Government.